AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Eureka Chapter

The next meeting
Thurs, December 5, 6:00 p.m.
Eureka Woman's Club
1531 J Street
Eureka, California

Holiday Potluck begins at 6:00
Bring your favorite Potluck dish, plates, utensils, coffee and tea provided. BYOB if you like. Be ready for adventure and holiday fun.

Eureka Chapter American Rhododendron Society — *Rhododendrons in the Redwoods*

December 2024

Eureka Rhody Holiday Potluck and Rhody 101

Eureka Rhody Holiday Potluck

Thursday December 5th at 6:00 P.M.

Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, Eureka

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society meeting and program will be held at the Eureka Woman's Club 1531 J Street in Eureka December 5th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Members and guests should bring their favorite potluck main dish, side dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert. The Chapter will provide coffee, tea, juice, plates, napkins, cups and utensils. BYOW (wine/beer) if you wish. The public is welcome. Bring a guest!

At 7 PM, after the meal, we will enjoy learning about Rhododendrons!!!! From our own Don Wallace. Don's program will be a Rhody 101 on pruning your rhododendrons. Though rhododendrons can live many years without any pruning they will look their most charming with a good hair cut. Learn when, how, and why to prune for bushiness and great blooms.

Rhododendrons make great Christmas gifts! There will be an impressive selection of rhodos that were chosen for their outstanding foliage. The blooms are great too. Each plant will be $15 so it will be easy to get several; and one for your self, too.

If your dues are paid make an appointment with June to come shop for your free plant. RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net or 707-498-2337

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Planting began in November 2008 in the Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden at Humboldt Botanical Garden. Many Eureka Rhody members were involved.

In this Season of Giving

Many Eureka Chapter members, along with renewing their membership, have made additional contributions to the Eureka Chapter General Fund, the ARS Endowment Fund, ARS General Fund, the Humboldt Botanical Garden's Moss Family Temperate Woodland Garden, the Rhody garden at Hospice of Humboldt, the building maintenance fund for the Eureka Woman's Club, the ARS Research Foundation, and the Jerry Reynolds Scholarship fund.

Thank you to the members who have given a total of $1190, your generosity goes a long way towards supporting these programs.

If you would like to volunteer your time the Eureka Chapter can use help setting up before our meetings and clean up after our meetings. Many hands make light work! Call June 707-443-0604 if you would be available to help.

Plant of the Month

By Don Wallace

***Rhododendron* 'Golden Gate'** is an unregistered hybrid of the species *R. dichroanthum* which was found growing in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Since it was an exceptional plant, it was named 'Golden Gate'. This plant grows into a compact shrub of 3-4 feet tall and prefers more sun than shade here along the Pacific Coast. The ARS speculates that the cross was *R. dichroanthum* ssp *scyphocalyx* X *R.* unknown. The blooming occurs in late April as it covers itself with flowers that are a combination of pink, orange, yellow, and cream. What a show! Plant with blue or purple flowers for a great color combination.

Temperate Woodland Garden planting team and plants. November 2008.

Temperate Woodland Garden November 2024

Eureka Chapter Bronze Medal Awards

From ARS Policies of the Board 9.8:

Bronze Medal. This award is delegated entirely for grant by local chapters and is initiated as the chapter governing body directs. The engraved medal, which is a part of the award, must be purchased by the chapters from the Society. ***It is awarded for outstanding contributions by individuals or couples to the chapter,*** *which may include accomplishments of the recipient(s) outside the chapter consistent with the goals of the Society. The honoree(s) must be member(s) of the Society.*

The Eureka Chapter has a small committee who nominates the recipients and has usually appointed a Past President to make the award. Past President Max Abrahamsen made the award presentations at the October meeting for Trish and Joe Ortiz.

Joe Ortiz

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2007 you have offered your help whenever needed. You supported the Eureka Chapter's annual Rhododendron Festival Show by curating and managing the photography display. The photo display was a great way for the public to see rhododendrons, azaleas and landscapes in an interesting format. You helped members place their photos in the correct categories for display.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Joe Ortiz, this 24th day of October 2024.

Trish Giddings-Ortiz

Since joining the Eureka Chapter in 2007 you have actively participated in Chapter activities. You served as Secretary for several years, taking the Board of Director's meeting minutes and writing reviews of the member meetings for the newsletter. Most importantly you have done that which nobody else wants to do; the real work of taking the minutes for the Board of Directors.

The Eureka Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to present the Bronze Medal to Trish Giddings-Ortiz, this 24th day of October 2024.

What is this stuff on my rhododendrons?

By Don Wallace owner of Singing Tree Gardens Nursery

Often, I receive phone calls from alarmed customers wanting to know how to get rid of the white dust coating on their rhododendrons. Even after explaining what it is, and that it is sought after among rhododendron collectors, and that it is a natural feature of the plant, I am asked how to "get rid of it". Only when rhododendron collectors become familiar with this feature do they really like it. This, I suppose, is because it is not a trait of the most commonly planted rhododendrons.

The official definition of **Tomentum** by the American Rhododendron Society is: Matted wooly hairs on stems, leaves or seeds. The silver, white or brown fuzz on the top of leaves will usually wipe off. This substance has often been found to prevent insect predation and can help leaves hold in moisture in times of drought. To the seasoned rhododendron collector, this is "***as good as it gets!".***

Indumentum (pl. **indumenta**) is a general term denoting the covering of hairs found on the underside of the leaves of many rhododendrons. On rhododendrons indumentum is commonly a woolly covering on the underside of mature leaves, while a similar surface on the upper side of leaves is called tomentum. The hairs that make up this wooly covering are much finer than human hair, with the thickest still being only 1/10th the thickness of a human hair. There are many types of hairs, resulting in a variety of types of indumentum. The rhododendron, bottom left, is *R. pachysanthum* from Taiwan. The leaves come out this interesting orange/tan color, but turn green by mid summer.

www.singtree.com sign up for Don's newsletters.

Eureka Woman's Club

Working toward the betterment of our community through cultural, educational and social programs

GIVE the GIFT of
WARMTH for the WINTER DAYS

The Eureka Woman's Club is collecting new socks, underwear, and clean-laundered sweat-shirts for those in need. Please bring your donations of men's, women's, and children's new socks, underwear, and gently used, laundered sweatshirts to the Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, on December 5th, during the Eureka Chapter's Holiday meeting. Help the Eureka Woman's Club "Give the Gift of Warmth". Additionally, help fill the barrel by bringing your donation of non-perishable food for Food for People.

Don Wallace will talk about how and when to prune Rhododendrons at the Holiday Potluck on December 5th. Come eat and learn.

The Eureka Chapter newsletter is published monthly except during July, August and November.

Submissions from members are encouraged and should be emailed to June Walsh, Newsletter Editor, 2050 Irving Drive, Eureka, CA 95503-7022. Rhodyhostel@suddenlink.net

Membership information and applications are available from Ellen Gill. C/O June Walsh. The Eureka Chapter is a member of Humboldt Botanical Garden, Eureka, Calif., and The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, Federal Way, Wash.

Eureka Chapter is a chapter of the American Rhododendron Society a 501 c (3) public benefit entity FEIN 68-0227798

WWW.EurekaRhody.org.

Eureka Chapter/American Rhododendron Society

2050 Irving Drive

Eureka, CA 95503-7022

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Future Programs

December 5, 2024	Holiday Potluck and Rhodo 101, Don Wallace
January 23, 2025	Steve Hootman, 'On the Hunt', for more great plants
February 27, 2025	Cyril Oberlander, Cal Poly's 3-D herbarium project
March 27, 2025	To Be Announced
April 24, 2025	To Be Announced
April 26, 2025	Eureka Rhody Plant Sale
May 2-3, 2025	Humboldt Botanical Garden, Plant Sale

All programs subject to change...what in life isn't?

If you are feeling anxious and full of stress remember Charlie Brown's friend Linus van Pelt took comfort in the simple pleasures of his thumb, his blanket, Snoopy and his friends. (We have Rhodies)

Eureka Chapter Officers and Board Members

For board member contact information or if you are interested in attending a board meeting, call or email June Walsh 707-443-0604 RhodyHostel@suddenlink.net